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Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services

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Extensions of country programmes

Summary

The present note contains information on the extensions of UNFPA country programmes. First-time extensions of country programmes up to one year are approved by the Executive Director, and presented to the Executive Board for information. All other requests for extensions of country programmes are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the first one-year extension of the country programmes for Cuba, as presented in table 1, and may wish to approve the second one-year extension of the country programme for Syrian Arab Republic, as presented in table 2.

Table 1

Extensions of country programmes approved by the Executive Director

Country	*Original programme period*	*Period approved for extension*	*Reason for extension*
Cuba	2014-2018	2019	At the request of the Cuban Government, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) decided to extend the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2014-2018 to allow the new country programmes and the programming cycles of other United Nations system agencies operating in the country to synchronize with the cycles of the national development plans/strategies. As Cuba is in the process of approving the 2030 National Plan for Economic and Social Development, this one-year extension will ensure the alignment of the new UNDAF cycle to the sustainable development priorities identified in the plan, once it is finalized.

Table 2
Country programme extensions for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

Country	*Original programme period*	*Period proposed for extension*	*Reason for extension*		
			In-country development	*United Nations harmonization*	*Implementation or other issues*
Syrian Arab Republic	2016-2017 2018 (first extension)	2019 (second extension)	Seven years into the crisis, Syria is still witnessing massive destruction of infrastructure and damage to every aspect of lives and livelihoods. In addition to the ongoing violence, Syrians are exposed to daily indignities and deprivations in their access to basic services and employment, and face multiple insecurities resulting from massive internal displacement. The Syrian Government is currently producing its first national SDG report. This will strengthen the national database of humanitarian and development indicators, and help the Government in updating its national development priorities. The Government has been undertaking a social demographic survey under the leadership of UNFPA. The survey results, expected in 2018, will support the country analysis with sex and age disaggregated data on income and expenditure; households; reproductive health; and food security.	The Government is currently drafting its national development plan, and has agreed to a one year extension of the United Nations Strategic Framework. The UNCT and the Joint Steering Committee decided to extend the current country programmes of Executive Committee agencies for one year. The extension will allow time for strategically aligning the United Nations approach in the Syrian Arab Republic to clarify complementarity with the humanitarian plan, and for the Government to articulate a new national development vision and humanitarian priorities. It provides additional time to prepare for a successor United Nations assistance framework, while allowing the United Nations organizations to continue responding to current needs.	The country programme will continue to focus on (a) improving access to high-quality reproductive health care; (b) scaling-up gender-based violence prevention and response; (c) supporting capacities to collect and use gender- and age-disaggregated data for tailoring response and recovery programming and; (d) engage with young people to foster social cohesion and reconciliation. It will integrate delivery of reproductive health and gender-based violence services through support to partners to operate mobile teams, static facilities, including health centres and hospitals, and women-friendly and youth-friendly spaces. Targeting young people and using evidence-based data for programming and monitoring in humanitarian contexts will be crosscutting across the programme.